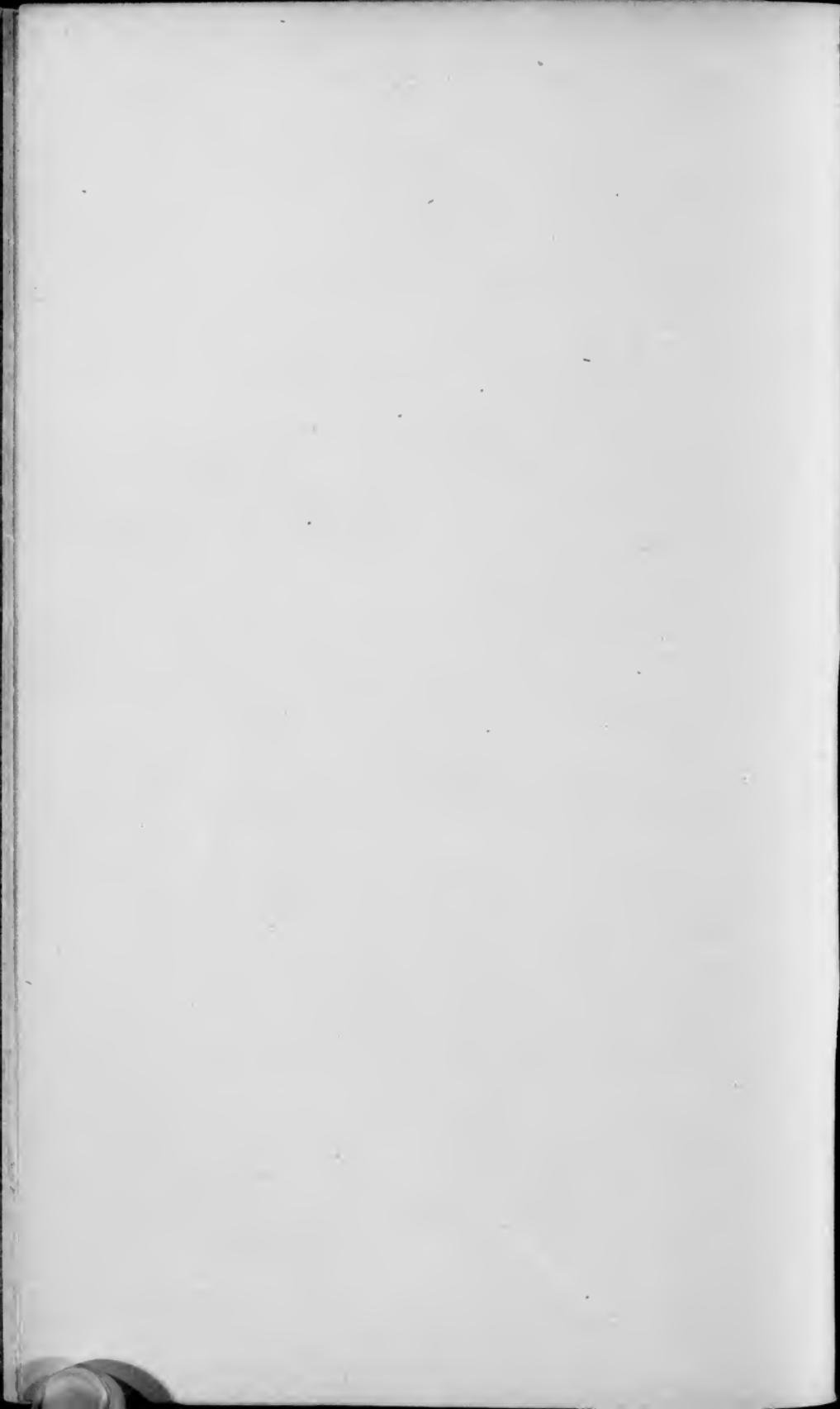


15th Annual Report of the
Department of Playgrounds
District of Columbia
1926

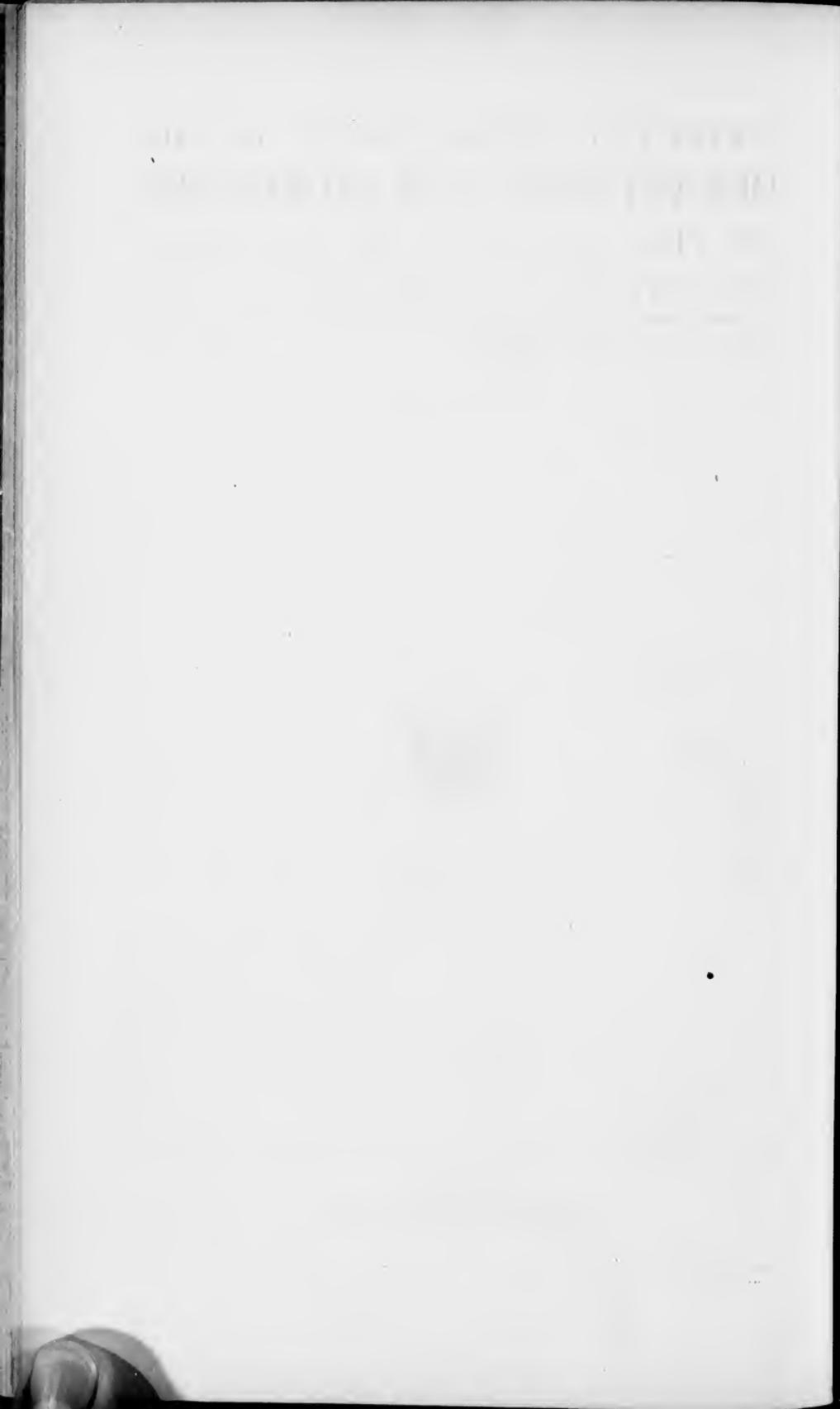


FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1926

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1926



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 15, 1926.*

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The supervisor of playgrounds presents herewith her eleventh report, which is the fifteenth annual report of the department of playgrounds. This covers the period from July 1, 1925, to June 30, 1926.

To you who have anxiously watched the growth of the Washington playgrounds the year has brought nearer to full bloom than ever before your hopes and plans. The coming year the playground directors are employed for 12 months. It has been possible to give play facilities to most sections of the city, however, not yet within walking distance of all the children of the District. On every playground a well-balanced program of athletics has been combined with a sufficient amount of industrial and constructive play to keep the children interested throughout the playground year.

A wider diffusion of playground knowledge has been noted, due largely to the friendly offices of the five local newspapers, which have kept the public informed of the day-by-day movements of the various play stations, and each in turn has launched educational campaigns that have familiarized the public with playground work and its benefits. As a result parents now send their children to the playground to receive the beneficial training in somewhat the same manner that they are sent to school.

The past year has been one of unusual interest and activity on our playgrounds. The attendance being slightly larger than any other previous year, has been distinctly noticeable for the number of smaller children attending.

One of the aims of the department has been to make every employee self-reliant and efficient; to feel a pride in the success of the department as a whole.

During the past summer vacation period, as is always true, thousands of our city children were denied the advantage of going to the country. For these, especially, the summer playgrounds have proven a blessing.

The hot city street with its heavy traffic makes street play almost impossible and at all times dangerous to life and limb, to manners, and morals. In the demand for increased appropriation for opening school yards to provide for the children the cost in dollars and cents is not to be considered alongside the beneficial results—the moral, healthful, and educational advantages afforded.

The singing and the organized games were excellent on many grounds. Story-telling was encouraged; some of the directors had remarkable success in this plan of interesting the children in fairy tales, myths, and legends of classic literature. Story-telling increases the attention and so the power of concentration. The retelling of the story by the child leads to the forming of a clearer mental image and to the use of good English.

The work with paper folding, cutting and pasting, work with reed and raphia proved to be of value during the occupational play period, and on many playgrounds very good results were accomplished.

The standard playground is one which gives to children an all-round physical development and that stimulus which comes from varied kinds of recreation. The questions of space per child has everything to do with the needs and requirements of playground work. A careful selection of equipment and expert supervision will make possible the most advantageous use of a small area. The District playgrounds are supplied with apparatus that makes possible the rotating of children from one kind of apparatus to another; and the program is well planned, in freeing the ground space for groups of children to engage in relay races or basket ball and soccer while others are drawn into games requiring less space, and the groups are rotated. The success of this work is in no small degree due to the care given in the appointment and instruction of directors.

During the year there were in operation 25 playgrounds over a period of 10 months, 64 for 10 weeks of the summer months with 37 open during the fall and spring terms and a play station at the Children's Hospital operated 12 months. The department also looks after the Reno Tennis Courts, the municipal swimming pools on the Monument lot, the three playground swimming pools, and five wading pools.

Among the many extended uses and benefits to the community through the varied activities of the municipal playgrounds is the work of the play station at the Children's Hospital, where the importance of occupational therapy work is emphasized.

The fundamental principles underlying this work encourages creative play, resourcefulness, and stimulation of imagination.

This work recognizes the importance of beauty; the children delight in singing; above all they love the story hour. School work is encouraged whenever possible. The wonder happenings of nature are closely followed; occupation play fills hours with well-directed diversion, so they pass both profitably and happily. Idle habits and wasted days are guarded against.

This year both playground and hospital have rejoiced over the very beautiful and fitting memorial to the memory of Mrs. Ida May Gale, given by her daughter, Mrs. Ridley McLean, a fund of \$5,000, the interest, \$300 a year, to be spent in such way as to broaden the usefulness of this work. And so we have called this the Ida May Gale Memorial Play Station. This work has been deeply appreciated by the ladies of the hospital. Doctors of the institution say that this work in addition to helping the child to forget his suffering is a curative measure.

An intensive athletic program has been launched on every playground for both boys and girls, and here one of the greatest uses of

trained playground workers is found. During the year track meets, soccer, baseball, and basket ball leagues, tennis tournaments and many other competitive sports were promoted between playgrounds but always under the watchful eye of the playground director who knew the limitations of each child. In the excitement and pleasure of the game the children forgot that it is possible to overexercise, and it is the duty of the playground director to study the children and to know just how much each child may do to derive benefits of sport and not let any child suffer from overindulgence.

A part of the summer schedule is devoted to industrial classes in which instruction is given in many kinds of handwork. In our occupational play the children are taught the things that interest them—needlework, embroidery, crochet, knitting, flower making, paper cutting, the making of small garments, basketry of various sorts of reed, raphia, and splints. The youngsters are encouraged to continue their efforts especially in sewing in their homes and as a consequence it is not an unusual occurrence to see a small girl appear on the playground wearing a costume which she has made. An exhibit of industrial work done by the Washington children on municipal playgrounds during the past summer was installed in the industrial exhibit of the Washington Chamber of Commerce in the Washington Auditorium, March 4 to 11.

The past summer has shown the great need of the playground department for more swimming pools. At present there are two pools for white, one at Georgetown playground and the other at Rosedale playground, and one for colored at Howard playground. All three had overflow crowds nearly every day of the summer months. The Howard pool was opened from 6 a. m. to 8 p. m. as this is the only place for colored swimmers in Washington, the wisdom of this early opening was proven by the great number that sought entrance before beginning their daily occupations. Georgetown and Rosedale pools opened from 9 a. m. until 7 p. m.

As originally planned it was a function of the playground department to encourage frequent visits by the children of the different grounds to the pools and to cause as many as possible to take advantage of the opportunity to learn to swim, but to-day the department is overwhelmed with those who want to use the pools, and swimming instruction, while just as needed as ever, becomes more and more difficult in the crowded tanks. Much interest was shown in the series of swimming meets held.

The municipal pools at the bathing beach opened May 1 and closed November 7, with 48,636 using the pools; the largest attendance was in July and August. Eleven elementary swimming classes were held each day during the vacation period. There were 6,296 who took advantage of this instruction.

The department feels that it is doing a maximum amount of good at a minimum of expense, there is a splendid opportunity for further development as more pools are available. Our five wading pools are used to capacity, and the need is felt for either a swimming or wading pool on every playground.

In the extreme heat sprinklers were installed through the cooperation of the water, fire, and police departments; 17 of these were placed near the playgrounds which were without swimming or

wading pools and so gave those children a chance to play in the "rain" and cool off.

Field and track sports were featured during the past year for the reason that more children are afforded opportunity to participate than in any other sport. An example of this was demonstrated during the summer when a meet for boys was held on the Plaza playground in which 975 boys took part, many more than could have competed in any other activity. Likewise when a girls' field day was held at Plaza playground nearly 500 competed in the events. Before the final meets on Plaza every ground held elimination meets in which it is estimated 15,000 boys and girls took part.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District were played off on the municipal playgrounds as usual, where teams representing the schools in track, baseball, and soccer for boys; basket ball and schlag ball for girls, played for the division and city championships. The attendance, of course, was not obligatory but was fostered and encouraged by many school principals. These contests were supervised by the playground directors, and all balls, bats, and athletic goods were furnished by the municipal playground department.

The button test continues to be an attractive part of the playground program, about 3,000 boys and girls winning grades in athletic proficiency. In the button test the child is first trained and then tested in events recognized as body builders, such as swimming, chinning, running, hiking, and jumping.

One of the most gratifying features of the year's work was the success the playground department had in assisting adult recreation. Having but limited facilities for play for other than children, the department could do little other than organization work for the older boys. One notable instance of this was the formation of the Washington Soccer League by the department, in which six teams entered. In the past soccer has been played in the playground's graded school league only, and it was a real victory to interest the older boys and men this past year.

Color was given to the league by the presence of a team from the British Embassy and one from a German club in Washington. Every game scheduled was played, and the championship won by Walfords, a team composed of Scotchmen. Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador, attended the cup presentation.

National historical dates were observed on the playgrounds with suitable exercises, as were safety-first week, health week, kindness to animals week, etc.

Equipment on our grounds has been kept in repair by the construction force under the direct supervision of the inspector of playgrounds. Little new apparatus was added, but an effort has been made to put all equipment in repair. Care is taken to detect any defective parts before a break occurs.

Three new playground plots were acquired during the year through the National Capital Park Commission—one in Chevy Chase, Forty-first and Livingston Streets, that had been in use for two years; one in Takoma Park, between Third, Fourth, Whittier, and Van Buren Streets; and one in Anacostia, on Nichols Avenue.

for colored. These two will be opened with supervision July 1, 1926, and developed as rapidly as means will allow.

Municipal playgrounds

WHITE

Bloomingdale ----- First and Bryant Streets NW., contains 3½ acres; turned over to the District by the Washington Aqueduct in 1913.

Chevy Chase ----- Forty-first and Livingston Streets NW., contains 2½ acres; loaned by the Chevy Chase Recreation Club 1923-1925. Purchased by the National Capitol Park Commission in 1925 for \$75,000 (\$5,000 of this amount was paid by the Chevy Chase Recreation Club).

Columbia Heights ----- Columbia Road NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues; contains one-half acre; purchased through congressional appropriation of \$22,000 in 1913.

Gallinger ----- F Street NW. between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets; opened in yard of juvenile court in 1911. In 1914 moved to Eighteenth and C Streets NW. In 1918 moved to Twenty-first and F Streets NW. In 1922 appropriation was made to purchase land on F Street between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets. Only one half of this ground has been acquired. The other half is now being acquired through condemnation proceedings.

Garfield Park ----- Second and F Streets SE., contains 1¼ acres; loaned through the courtesy of the Office of Public Buildings and Parks since 1907. The apparatus that was placed on this ground was at the Jamestown Exposition and was of the latest and best make; it was donated to the Washington Playground Association by the Playground and Recreation Association of America with the desire and earnest purpose of the association to make this park playground a model in every way, to be a show place and object lesson for the whole country.

Georgetown ----- Thirty-third and Volta Place NW.; contains 2¼ acres; purchased through congressional appropriation in 1908 for \$30,000.

Happy Hollow ----- Eighteenth and Kalorama Road NW.; contains 1 acre; turned back to the commissioners by the Washington Aqueduct in 1917.

Hoover ----- Second and Delaware Avenue SW.; contains 1½ acres; opened through the courtesy of J. R. Hoover in 1917; purchased through congressional appropriations in 1923 for \$17,000.

Iowa Avenue ----- Iowa Avenue NW. between Varnum and Webster Streets; contains 1½ acres; opened in 1922 on land owned by the District government, formerly used as nursery.

Mitchell Park ----- Twenty-third and S Streets NW.; contains three-fourth acre; willed to the city in 1918 by Mrs. Mary Mitchell.

Montrose Park ----- Thirtieth and R Streets NW.; contains ¼ acre; loaned through the courtesy of the Department of Public Buildings and Parks in 1922.

New York Avenue ----- First and New York Avenue NW.; contains 1 acre; opened on privately owned ground through the courtesy of Mrs. Allison Nailor in 1910; purchased through congressional appropriation in 1918 for \$30,000.

Park View -----	Warder and Otis Streets NW.; contains 1½ acres; opened on borrowed ground in 1919 through the courtesy of H. R. Howenstein; purchased through congressional appropriation in 1921 for \$32,000.
Phillips-----	Between Eighth, Ninth, Longfellow, and Madison Streets NW.; contains one-fourth acre; opened in 1923 on ground given to the District by William S. Phillips.
Plaza-----	Second and E Streets NE.; contains 3¼ acres; Federal property; opened through the courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol in 1922.
Rosedale-----	Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.; contains 5 acres; purchased in 1908 through congressional appropriation of \$30,000.
Takoma-----	Between Third, Fourth, Van Buren, and Whittier Streets NW.; contains 4½ acres; purchased through the National Capitol Park Commission in 1926; will open with supervisor July 1, 1926.
Thomson-----	Twelfth and L Streets NW.; opened in school yard in 1923.
Twin Oaks-----	Fourteenth and Taylor Streets NW.; contains one-half acre; land cut off from Tuberculosis Hospital in cutting through Taylor Street in 1920.
Van Ness-----	Third and M Streets SE.; contains one-half acre; loaned through the courtesy of the Catholic Big Sisters, October, 1923.
Virginia Avenue-----	Ninth and Eleventh on Virginia Avenue SE.; contains 2½ acres; Government reservation, one-half of which has been used as a playground since 1905. Entire reservation transferred to District Commissioners by Congress in 1919.

COLORED

Cardozo-----	First and I Streets SW.; contains 2 acres; purchased through congressional appropriation of \$14,000 in 1908.
Barry Farm-----	Nicholas Avenue, Anacostia, D. C.; contain 2½ acres; purchased through the National Capitol Park Commission in 1926 for \$5,000; will open with supervision July 1, 1926.
Howard-----	Fifth and W Streets NW.; contains 3 acres; Federal property loaned through the courtesy of the Interior Department and Freedman's Hospital in 1909.
Logan-----	Third and G Streets NE.; contains three-fourths acre; opened on borrowed ground in 1919; purchased in 1922 through congressional appropriation of \$17,000; addition purchased in 1924 for \$1,300.
Payne-----	Fifteenth and C Streets SE.; contains one-fourth acre; opened in school yard and on borrowed ground in 1924.
Rose Park-----	Twenty-seventh and O Streets NW.; contains one-half acre; opened on borrowed ground in 1917. Purchased through congressional appropriation of \$8,000 in 1923. Addition purchased for \$5,000 in 1924.
Willow Tree-----	Between Third, Four-and-a-half, B, and C Streets SW.; contains 1¾ acres; Willow Tree Park playground acquired by the commissioners, through condemnation proceedings with an appropriation of \$78,000; of this amount \$15,000 was used after the purchase for razing the buildings, grading construction of walks, and for planting. Park treatment was designed in the office of Public Buildings and Grounds 1913. Turned back to the District for playground purposes 1914.

School yards open during the summer, 1925

Adams-----	Seventeenth and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Arthur-----	Arthur Place NW.
Bowen-----	Third and K Streets SW.
Bradley-----	Thirteenth and Linworth Place SW.
Brightwood-----	Ninth and Ingraham Streets NW.
Brookland-----	Tenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Buchanan-----	Thirteenth and E Streets SE.
Burroughs-----	Eighteenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Cooke-----	Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran-----	Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Congress Heights-----	Congress Heights, D. C.
Dennison-----	S Street NW. between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.
Eaton-----	Thirty-fourth and Lowell Streets NW.
Emery-----	Lincoln Road and Prospect Street NE.
Filmore-----	Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Hayes-----	Fifth and K Streets NE.
Jefferson Junior-----	Sixth and D Streets SW.
Johnson-Powell-----	Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Ketcham-----	Fifteenth and U Streets SE.
Langdon-----	Twenty-second and Franklin Streets NE.
Ludlow-----	Sixth and G Streets NE.
Orr-----	Twenty-second and Prout Streets SE.
Polk-Henry-----	Seventh and P Streets NW.
Seaton-----	Second and I Streets NW.
Takoma-----	Dahlia Street, Takoma Park, D. C.
Tenley-----	Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Wallach-----	Eighth and D Streets SE.
Wheatley-----	Twelfth and N Streets NE.

COLORED

Birney-----	Nichols Avenue, Anacostia, D. C.
Briggs-----	Twenty-second and E Streets NW.
Bruce-----	Kenyon Street NW. between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Burrville-----	Burrville, D. C.
Cleveland-----	Eighth and T Streets NW.
Crummell-----	Gallaudet Avenue NE.
Deanwood-----	Deanwood, D. C.
Giddings-----	Third and G Streets SE.
Lovejoy-----	Twelfth and D Streets NE.
Magruder-----	Eighteenth and M Streets NW.
Slater-Langston-----	North Capitol and P Streets.

School yards open daily, after school hours, during the spring and fall terms

WHITE

Adams-----	Seventeenth and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Burroughs-----	Eighteenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Cooke-----	Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran-----	Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Dennison-----	S Street NW. between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.
Fairbrother-----	Tenth and E Streets SW.
Jefferson-----	Sixth and D Streets SW.
Johnson-Powell-----	Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Orr-----	Twenty-second and Prout Streets SE.
Van Ness-----	Third and M Streets SE.

COLORED

Birney-----	Nichols Avenue, Anacostia, D. C.
Deanwood-----	Deanwood, D. C.
Giddings-----	Third and G Streets SE.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASEBALL

The annual elementary school baseball series conducted by the playground department was handled as in past years with the exception that the schools were divided into seven divisions instead of eight. Teams from 58 schools carrying a total of 1,320 players competed in the series.

In addition to the regular leagues, three divisions conducted a series for boys of the sixth grade and under. The sixth grade leagues were on Park View, Rosedale, and Chevy Chase playgrounds and served a twofold purpose. The boys who otherwise would not have had the opportunity competed, and the younger league prepared them for the time when they can play on the representative team of their school.

The division champions were: Bloomingdale, Langdon; Plaza, Blair-Hayes; Rosedale, Pierce; Virginia Avenue, Ketcham-Van Buren; Garfield, Wallach; Columbia Heights, Park View; and Georgetown, Jackson. Park View won the city championship after winning the western section title by taking two straight games from Blair-Hayes, winners of the eastern section.

A division for colored schools was conducted on the Rose Park playground in which three schools took part, namely, Phillips, Wormley, and Montgomery. Each school played the other twice, and Phillips won the championship and the cup awarded by the playground department.

SPRING ATHLETIC MEETS

The annual graded school track and field meets conducted by the playground department created more interest than ever before. The Plaza track was in a large measure responsible for the increased interest as it lies in the center of the seven divisions and is in walking distance of many of the boys. It was noted that schools from the southeast and southwest sections of the city sent more boys to the meets this year than ever before.

A new city champion was crowned when the Peabody School scored 50 points to lead 43 schools that had qualified for the finals in the division meets. Altogether 61 schools and 1,280 boys took part in the seven division meets.

The division champions were Rosedale, Maury; Georgetown, Force-Adams; Virginia Avenue, Buchanan; Garfield, Wallach; Plaza, Peabody; Bloomingdale, John Burroughs; and Columbia Heights, Monroe.

SOCCER BALL

Soccer enjoyed its most successful season in the year past when the department had 78 teams and about 1,600 boys in its annual elementary school series. Interest in the game was evinced in every section of the city, and the annual soccer series has surpassed the baseball championships in so far as city-wide enthusiasm is concerned.

One less division tournament was conducted than in the past few years, making seven divisions competing. Each division had from 6 to 12 teams in it and in many cases tie games caused playoffs at

the end of the season. The division champions follow: Bloomingdale, Brightwood Park; Columbia Heights, Park View; Garfield, Wallach; Georgetown, Jackson; Rosedale, Pierce; Plaza, Gales-Blake; and Virginia Avenue, Lenox.

The city championship games were played on the Plaza playground and witnessed by sizable crowds. Park View School, which had won the championship for the western section, met Pierce, champions of the eastern section, in the finals, and Pierce won the city title, taking two straight games.

TENNIS

The increased popularity of tennis in Washington reflected on the playground tennis tournaments, causing a greatly increased number of players, about 1,050 in all taking part. Twenty playgrounds conducted elimination sets and the winners were pitted for the city championship.

After several stirring matches all were eliminated but the boys representing Twin Oaks playground and Georgetown playground. The Twin Oaks boy took two straight sets from the Georgetown lad and for his triumph received a silver loving cup awarded by a friend of the department.

COLORED PLAYGROUND MEET

Colored athletes of the playgrounds were furnished with a cinder path equal to the Plaza oval for their annual meet, and over four hundred boys competed. The track at Cardozo playground was re-conditioned, and the pits were put in shape for the meet which was held on August 29. After about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours of fast-moving competition it was found that Logan playground had won the meet by the narrowest of margins. At a banquet held for those who took part in the games bronze buttons were given to those who placed first, second, and third.

INTERPLAYGROUND MEET

The second annual field and track meet was held on the Plaza playground during the summer and for the first time in the history of the playground department, a real cinder path was at its disposal.

Due to the fact that good facilities were furnished a record-breaking number of boys took part. In one event alone, the 70-pound class, 50-yard dash, 60 boys were entered. About 900 in all vied for city honors that were finally won by the Corcoran playground. Boys who placed first, second, or third were awarded felt "W" for Washington.

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON MEET

The second annual intercity meet between Baltimore and Washington playgrounds took place September 5 in Patterson Park, Baltimore, and was won by the home team. Sixty youngsters from Wash-

ington made the trip and although defeated they enjoyed the day immensely. From the time the trucks pulled away from the Plaza playground, where the boys from the various playgrounds met, until late the same night when they returned to the same place a glorious time was had by all. No records were broken in the meet which was slowed considerably by the unusual heat for that time of the year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

An active year was enjoyed on the colored playgrounds; all activities indulged in by the children on the white playgrounds were promoted. Special awards were made the marble winners on the colored play fields where a great deal of interest was shown.

Leagues for volley ball, baseball, and basket ball were sponsored on each ground, and interplayground contests were arranged for tennis and track.

The advancement made by the colored athletes of Washington is one of the most gratifying features of the past year, as this department is the only organization actively engaged in promoting colored sports and the results can be traced directly to the playgrounds.

Particular attention was paid to the button test on the colored playgrounds where about 800 boys passed the first test and were awarded bronze buttons. Quoits and horseshoe pitching continued to be popular and tournaments for both sports were held on every playground.

COLORED INTERCITY MEET

Colored playground athletes from Baltimore returned a visit made by the Washington boys the year previous when 48 youngsters visited here for the purpose of having a field and track meet on September 12.

The meet was held on the improved Cardozo track and was a closely contested affair, the final decision going to the visitors 91-89.

TENNIS ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Tennis has made rapid progress on the colored playgrounds, and it was thought during the summer that enough interest had been evinced in the game to arrange a boys tournament. The results were very gratifying to the play leaders who conducted the series.

After elimination tournaments had been held on each playground an interplayground series was played. After many stirring matches it was won by the Howard playground representative. For this triumph he was awarded a gold medal by a friend of the department.

INTERPLAYGROUND BASKET BALL

Basket ball, which is enjoying a wave of popularity at the present time in the District, was played extensively on the playgrounds from the middle of September until the baseball season started in the spring.

In the fall a tournament in which 20 teams took part was conducted. The teams were divided into four sections and the winners of each qualified for the finals. Twin Oaks won the championship in the western half of the city and Plaza playground triumphed in the east and so qualified for the city championship.

Title matches were closely contested and Twin Oaks playground won the honors by taking two out of three games. The winners were awarded small bronze basket balls.

MARBLE TOURNAMENT

A part of the spring program was devoted to the annual marble tournament which enjoyed its usual success. About 3,000 boys took part in the tourney that was conducted on each playground. The champions were divided into six sections and the winner of each qualified to play in the finals on the Plaza playground.

The Daily News offered a trip to Atlantic City where a national marble tournament was held. Victor Gauzza of the Plaza playground won the title and he left Washington June 26 for the resort, accompanied by the director of boys' activities.

Young Gauzza was more successful in the national tourney than a Washington representative had ever been. He won the eastern league championship, for which he was awarded a gold wrist watch, and was not eliminated until he reached the semifinals.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR GIRLS

The activity of the department is always largely increased in July with the opening of the school yards for the play purposes. With 40 of these school yards open in addition to the municipal playgrounds, making a total of 64 playgrounds, the department was kept busy handling the facilities. Each year girls are playing a more important part in athletics and are taking an interest in sports for which heretofore they have cared little. The past summer was an unusually active one for them with track meets, tennis tournaments, athletic tests, hikes, swimming lessons, and industrial work for all playgrounds. An interplayground tennis tournament, interplayground swimming meet, and interplayground track and field meet were held and proved popular.

INTERPLAYGROUND TENNIS

Over 1,000 girls played tennis in the tournaments conducted on the playgrounds during the late spring and summer.

An open match tournament was held in May and the first part of June, the matches being played off on Saturdays on the playgrounds having four or more courts. Garfield Park and Montrose Park playgrounds reached the finals in the singles and Iowa Avenue and Garfield Park playgrounds in the doubles. Garfield playground was victorious in both.

The interplayground tournament of doubles which was held in August, after each municipal playground had conducted a tournament of its own, was very successful and created a great deal of interest in the girls' activities throughout the city. Splendid team

work, unusual plays, and long drives marked an advancement in the ability of the youthful tennis players in the District.

GIRLS' INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

The second annual track and field meet for girls was held in September on the Plaza playground, in which more than 300 girls took part. Each playground represented held a meet previous to the city meet on its own ground. The city meet brought together girls from all over the District and was conducted in a very efficient manner and was one of the greatest successes in the history of the playground department. The girls spent the whole day on the athletic field, located in the central part of the city, enjoying sports of various kinds, sometimes as a participant and at others as a spectator.

The morning hours were devoted to the 50 and 60 yard dashes; the running high jump, the running broad jump, the basket ball throw for distance, and novelty races. Luncheon was served on the ground from 12.30 to 1.30. At 2 o'clock the activities were resumed; organized games of schlag ball, dodge ball, and Newcomb were played with all the playgrounds represented on the teams. Tennis and quoit matches were also held.

Iowa Avenue playground won the track and field events, scoring 24½ points against Garfield playground, 24. Rosedale playground was third with 15. The points were not confined to these playgrounds, as may be seen from the following scores: Twin Oaks, 12; Plaza, 11; Bloomingdale, 9; Georgetown, 9; Phillips, 8; Hoover, 5; Virginia Avenue, 5; Columbia Heights, 5; Park View, 4, and Happy Hollow, 3½.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITS

Exhibits of handwork were held on all playgrounds at the close of the summer season. The children were taught during the warm hours of the day to make baskets, knit sweaters, embroider towels, centerpieces, scarfs, and various other articles; to sew clothes for themselves and younger sisters; to weave rugs and make useful things. A special day was given over to the showing of these numerous pieces of work; parents, social workers, and teachers in the neighborhood being invited to see the exhibits. The children were then given their own articles to carry home as their cherished possessions.

FALL ACTIVITIES FOR GIRLS

The cooler days of autumn is the time of our more vigorous sports and games. Basket ball is the most popular activity at this season. There are eight leagues representing the elementary public schools, and these games are conducted on the playgrounds after school hours. The interplayground league games take place on Saturdays. The smaller grounds have leagues in dodge ball, Newcomb ball, and many other games that are popular to that type ground.

Hikes are frequently taken on Saturdays, marshmallow toasts are held, Halloween parties given, and Christmas celebrated with community trees and Christmas carol singing.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASKET BALL

Basket ball starts on the playgrounds in the early fall as soon as the weather becomes cool enough for sports of this type. An elementary school league is conducted on school days and an interplayground league on Saturdays.

Eight of the large playgrounds take care of the school games which are played after school hours, each of these grounds being a center for schools in a certain district. The girls do not travel across the city for their games but play in their own neighborhood as nearly as possible. A city-championship series is not conducted. In these leagues last fall 1,262 girls played on the basket-ball teams and many more learned the game. The names of the playground divisions and the winning schools are as follows: Bloomingdale, Langdon; Columbia Heights (Park View and Happy Hollow), E. V. Brown; Garfield, Wallach-Towers; Georgetown, Curtis-Hyde; Plaza, Peabody; Rosedale, Pierce; and Virginia Avenue, Bryan.

In addition an interplayground league was formed with 18 teams competing. The series was divided into four sections. Georgetown was the winner of section 1, Columbia Heights of section 2, Rosedale of section 3, and Garfield of section 4. In the semifinals Georgetown defeated Columbia Heights and Garfield defeated Rosedale; then the two winners met in a three-game series for the deciding play. Georgetown took two straight games from the Garfield girls; the scores were 13-8 and 18-14.

SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR GIRLS

From the 1st of March, when the playgrounds opened for the spring work, until school closed and the summer program began the spring activities for girls did not slacken. With favorable weather conditions there were very few postponed games, either in the public-school league or the minor league. Schlag ball leagues were formed on all grounds, quoit tournaments were held, and an open match tennis tournament was conducted during May and June. These matches were played on Saturdays and created very wide interest. May day pageants were given, the same program being carried out on all grounds. The girls also took part in the health-day celebration in Central High School stadium May 1. The playground department's part in this was a Maypole dance. The department also furnished the May queen for the occasion.

ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL SCHLAG BALL

In the elementary public-school series conducted by the department on the seven division grounds that handle the school games 1,009 girls played schlag ball; 60 schools were represented in the leagues, and the following won in their respective divisions: Langdon in the Bloomingdale division, Van Ness in the Garfield, Curtis-Hyde in the Georgetown, Park View in the Columbia Heights, Carberry in the Plaza, Lenox in the Virginia Avenue, and Benning in Rosedale. This was the third successive year that Lenox and Curtis-Hyde had won trophies, so they each became the permanent possessor of a cup. Benning School is the champion for the first time in any girls' series.

GIRLS' ACTIVITIES ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Girls' sports of all kinds are increasing from year to year on the colored playgrounds and keener interest is shown in various activities. During the year elementary school basket ball and schlag ball leagues were conducted; an interplayground tennis tournament was held and a track meet took place on each playground. More girls are learning to swim and trips were made from all playgrounds to the Howard swimming pool, the directors being allowed to accompany the girls on these occasions. Athletic efficiency tests are given from day to day and the girls passing are awarded a bronze, silver, or gold button according to the number of tests they have taken.

The daily program is the same as the one used on white playgrounds with athletics, games, stories, kindergarten, ring games, and industrial work, special feature days, exhibits and tournaments.

INTERPLAYGROUND TENNIS TOURNAMENT ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

This tournament was conducted for the colored girls of the city after each playground had held a tournament of its own, and was the first of its kind under the department. The matches were played off in singles, one being scheduled for each playground. The girl representing Logan playground won the city title, not losing a match, and was presented with a medal by the department.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASKET BALL ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

An elementary school basket ball series was conducted on four of the colored playgrounds with 300 girls taking part in the games. The winning school in each division was presented with a silver cup to be kept for one year. The playgrounds taking care of school games and the schools presented with trophies for 1925 are as follows: Cardoza playground, Syphax School; Logan playground, Logan School; Howard playground, Wilson School; and Rose Park playground, Phillips School.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHLAG BALL ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Schlag ball is more popular among the colored girls than any other team game, this having been shown in the great numbers that come out for the school teams in the spring. A series is conducted on the playgrounds that have charge of this type of games and silver cups are awarded to the schools winning in each division. The Syphax School won in the Cardozo division, Wilson School in the Howard division, Logan School in the Logan division, and Wormley School in the Rose Park division.

OUTDOOR KINDERGARTENS

Weather permitting, outdoor kindergartens classes are held daily. There is much enjoyment for the child during the kindergarten hour, and work is accomplished that would not be if he were confined indoors. He feels the freedom of the open air, learns to concen-

trate, and to use his hands for useful purposes; to be unselfish and to take notice of his fellow playmates. The work is varied each day and the children learn different types, as crayoning, cut-outs, card sewing, clay modeling, paper folding, painting, and the construction of paper furniture, houses, etc. The class is usually opened with a song, finger play, or a suitable story. On anniversaries of national interest appropriate exercises are held and the completed handwork in some way conveys the meaning of the day.

THE REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

The repair and construction department is under the direct supervision of the inspector of playgrounds, who is responsible to the supervisor for the purchase of all supplies and equipment and the condition of all grounds. During the year this division has kept the playgrounds in proper condition, has distributed supplies and equipment, has periodically inspected all apparatus and passed on its safety, has manufactured small playground apparatus, and has provided for the housing and safe-keeping of all playground stores and supplies. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basket ball courts, and tennis courts were laid out and new pieces of apparatus installed.

REPORT OF THE BATHING POOLS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Under the direction of the superintendent, the municipal bathing pools, Seventeenth and B Streets SW., were opened for the season of 1925 on May 1 and closed November 7. During that time a total of 48,636 availed themselves of the free privilege; 6,296 patronized the classes. Eleven elementary swimming classes were held each day during the vacation period. In addition to elementary swimming there were classes in life-saving. The pools were open from 6 a. m. until 6 p. m. From 6 a. m. until 9 a. m. the pools were used for mixed bathing and from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the pools were used for girls and women, and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays they were used by boys and men. The monthly attendance shows that July is the most popular month at the pools. The July class of girls numbered 1,436 and boys 1,268; August class of girls 1,010 and boys 985; September class of girls 423 and boys 318; and June class of girls 479 and boys 377, making a total of 6,296. These free classes were very popular as usual. Children large and small evinced the greatest interest. Busy mothers, with their children's welfare uppermost in their minds, found time to bring them to the pools waiting patiently through the morning or afternoon for the lessons to be taken. Not only could the good results be seen from day to day, but each year shows a gain of little children who have learned to take care of themselves in the water.

In the matter of sanitation the municipal pools stood at the head of all the swimming pools in the District.

PLAYGROUND SWIMMING POOLS

Pools are located on the following playgrounds: Georgetown, Rosedale, and Howard. In charge of each is a head-life guard, a

teacher of swimming, an attendant, and a key boy. Each pool will accommodate 100 bathers at a time. The pools are of the open-air type, 28 feet wide and 75 long, with a sloping depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Each pool holds 96,000 gallons of water, which is supplied from the city main. The water is filtered, and the pools are so constructed that an overflow of water is always going off while they are in use. The water was frequently tested by the health authorities, and the pools have been kept in the most sanitary conditions. The attendance on Georgetown pool was 19,072 boys and 16,393 girls, making a total of 35,464; on Rosedale pool 21,047 boys and 14,922 girls, making a total of 35,969; for Howard pool, boys and men 32,080, girls and women 6,632, making a total of 38,712. The pools were open from 10 to 13 hours per day; Georgetown and Rosedale from 9 a. m. until 7 p. m., where three regular swimming classes were held daily, two for beginners and one for junior life-saving.

The pools were well attended throughout the whole summer, and considerable interest was aroused in the series of swimming meets held. At Georgetown and Rosedale, boys' meets were run off, preliminary to the annual interpool meet. The interpool boys' meet was held at the Georgetown pool, and the Georgetown team won by a narrow margin. The girls at Georgetown and Rosedale held meets, and the second annual interpool meet for the Lewton cup was won for the second year by Georgetown. A number of good swimmers were developed during the year and the beginners' classes were a creditable success.

Howard, the only pool for colored in the city, was open from 6 a. m. until 7 p. m. Here there was mixed bathing from 6 a. m. until 9 a. m., then regular swimming classes both morning and afternoon. A boys' meet was also held at the Howard pool which was well attended and well contested. The high-point winner was awarded a cup donated by a number of colored citizens interested in swimming. Howard pool furnished much good sport for the boys and girls of Washington; swimming races, water polo, and water tag were popular; classes in swimming, fancy diving, and life-saving were regularly taught.

CONCLUSIONS

In concluding this report I wish to emphasize the need of continual improvement of the municipal playgrounds by enlarging the areas and increasing the facilities for active recreation.

It has been found that little children will not go more than one-fourth of a mile to a playground, while children from 8 to 10 years of age will go one-half mile. Older children, of course, go much farther to athletic fields.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That in the opening of new subdivisions in the city one-tenth of the ground, exclusive of streets, be set aside as playgrounds.

That every playground be provided with a wading pool and the larger grounds with a swimming pool.

That every playground be provided with a field house large enough for indoor recreation in extreme hot or cold weather.

That public-spirited citizens be reminded that there is no gift that can be made to the city of greater use and enjoyment, with more lasting honor to the donor, than the gift of land for a public playground.

That branch libraries be opened on all playgrounds.

That a part of the reservation known as Judiciary Square be transferred by Congress to the control of the District Commissioners to be used for playground purposes. The exact location of the section desired is that part of the square north from E Street extending to F Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets NW.

In submitting this report I desire to acknowledge the cordial support of the department of health, the splendid cooperation of the police department, the courtesy extended by the department of public buildings and public parks, the interest taken in our work by the community, the help given us by many who have rendered willing service, and my appreciation of the enthusiastic and earnest efforts of the directors of playgrounds. To the newspapers of the District I am grateful for the space in which to bring our plans and achievements before the public.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.



